

Bi-national TMDL Considerations

- The Regional Board TMDL effort for the Tijuana River Valley will establish acceptable loads of trash and sediment to the US portion of the Tijuana River from both US and Mexican sources.
- Because **the Regional Board has no enforcement authority in Mexico**, we have no ability to direct specific abatement actions or practices in Mexico.
- Because the Tijuana River Watershed is bi-national, long term solutions to the sources of impairment to the US portion of the watershed can only be accomplished with the cooperation of Mexico.
- Mexico has a watershed planning program that may be a vehicle for cross-border cooperation for the entire watershed.
- The International Boundary and Water Commission, US Section, is the US Federal agency with the authority to negotiate with Mexico for implementation of specific actions or projects that may be needed to protect the beneficial uses of the US portion of the Watershed.
- The Regional Board will seek to work with the US Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission to get cooperation from Mexico to address impairment issues. A hopeful outcome would be a Treaty Minute or Minutes that focus on impairment sources in Mexico
- In addition, the US EPA, the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) and the North American Development Bank (NADBank) have the ability to work directly with Mexico on cross-border water quality and public health issues.
- A binational Border 2012 Tijuana River Watershed Work Group has been active for several years.
- Finally, US and Mexican NGO's and private citizens and businesses will have an important role in identifying long term solutions to cross-border impairment issues.